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DIRECTORATE OF
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Japan: Japan's proposals regarding a nonproliferation treaty are designed to assure its access to nonmilitary nuclear technology and to leave Tokyo the option of developing nuclear weapons.

Foreign Minister Miki told US Ambassador Johnson on 10 April that a major Japanese concern is to prevent the treaty from appearing as a device for preserving the monopoly of the present nuclear powers in the development of nuclear weapons. To achieve this, the Japanese propose adding a pledge that the signatories will seek a general disarmament agreement that includes the elimination from national arsenals of nuclear weapons and the means for delivery.

Japan's desire to reserve its right over the longer term to produce nuclear weapons probably underlies the proposal to eliminate the specification that the treaty is of unlimited duration. The Japanese have suggested that the treaty be reviewed every five years.

In addition, they seek language that will avoid any discriminatory restrictions on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and wish to include a specific disclaimer of any such restriction. Tokyo wants nuclear explosive devices that are clearly nonmilitary to be permitted.

The Japanese also urge adoption of a separate declaration "at the United Nations or elsewhere" that would in effect provide the nonnuclear nations assurances against nuclear threats and aggression.

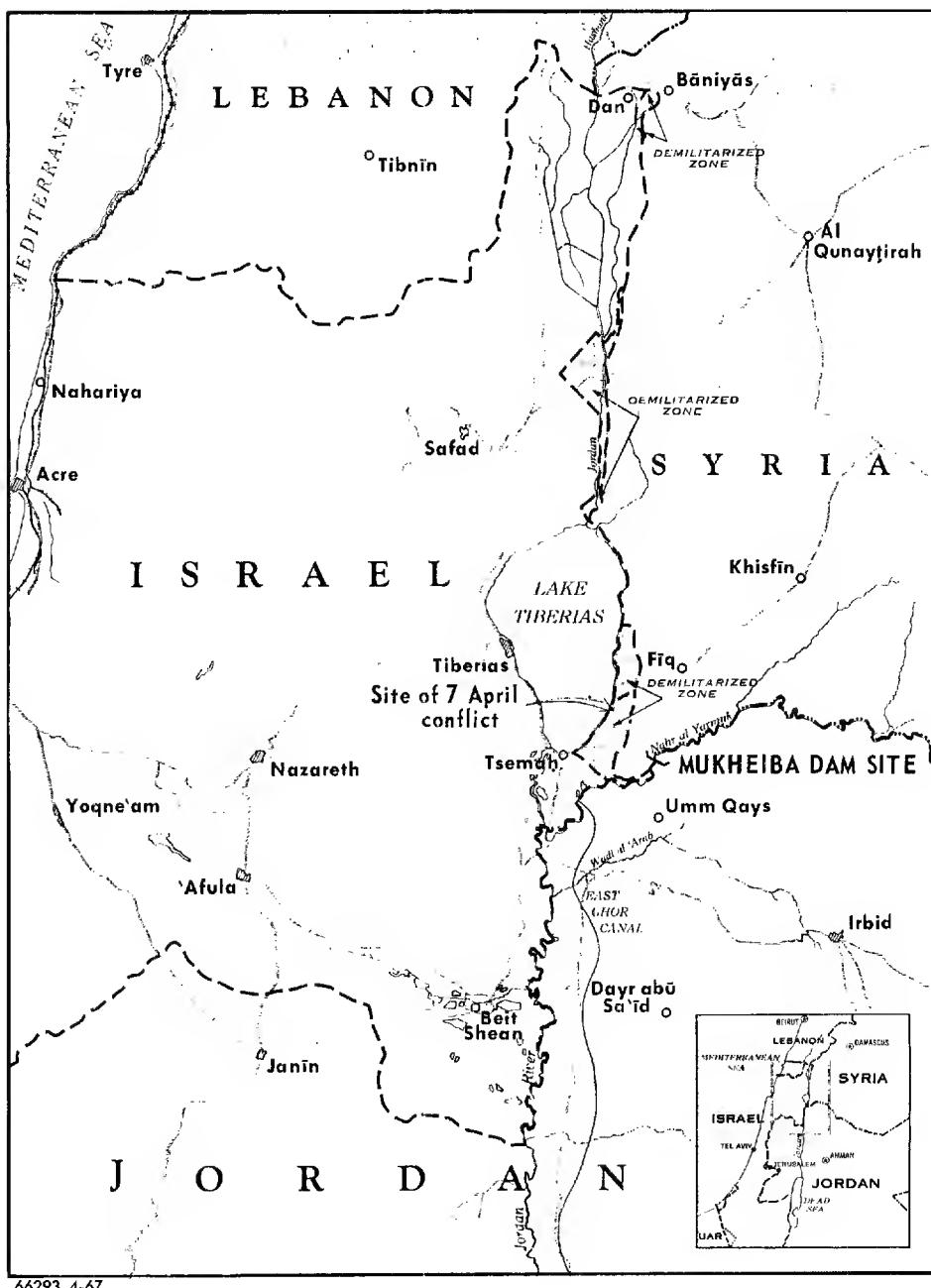
Miki stressed that public and parliamentary interest in the subject required that the government demonstrate it was actively pressing for the incorporation of Japanese views in the treaty. He said that this was the first issue in a long time on which the parliamentary opposition was in fundamental agreement with the government. To impress the Japanese public, two former ambassadors will be sent to the US and to Europe to discuss the treaty.

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Ambassador Johnson notes, however, that the Japanese have not indicated that support for the treaty or their signing the treaty depends upon acceptance of their views. [redacted]

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Syria-Israel: An Israeli build-up of ground forces along the Syrian border apparently has inspired rumors in Syria that an attack is imminent.

The Israelis during the past few days have reinforced military units in disputed border areas to the north of Lake Tiberias. The Syrians appear to be bracing for new hostilities and reportedly have ordered the evacuation of workers at the Mukheibah Dam site, near the scene of last week's clash.

The Israelis evidently are determined to press their cultivation rights in the long-disputed demilitarized zones, and the build-up may be merely a backup for this pressure. The Israelis proved their military superiority last week, and it seems unlikely that they will initiate hostilities on a major scale without new, serious Syrian provocation.

The Syrians fired heavy mortar shells at an Israeli armored tractor on 11 April, but the Israelis claim no one was injured. The Syrians almost certainly want to avoid air action on last week's scale, when they lost about a fourth of their MIG-21 force.

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Nigeria: Eastern leaders are talking more and more in terms of full sovereignty for their region, because of their failure to settle their differences with the federal government.

A number of Ibo civilian and military leaders in the East are claiming that confederation is no longer possible with the other regions, especially with the North, which was responsible for the anti-Ibo pogrom last year. [redacted]

[redacted] Moderating influences at the policy level in the East appear to be declining.

The East's de facto separation from the federal structure is growing. Some facilities, services, and organizations normally provided by the federal government, among them an army and a foreign affairs staff, have already been established locally. Others are planned. A separate Eastern currency is reportedly being designed.

There is still no firm evidence that an actual declaration of secession is imminent or that Eastern Governor Ojukwu is irrevocably committed to that course. Ojukwu has appeared to prefer a much looser association of the regions within a continuing union. He almost certainly would lead the East to full independence rather than jeopardize his leadership position, however. In a recent speech, tailored to the temper of the Eastern audience he was addressing, Ojukwu said Nigeria's regions should continue their discussions as "sovereign units." [redacted]

NOTES

France: The normally tough bargaining position Paris has maintained on the Kennedy Round may become even firmer. With elections behind them, top French officials are beginning to give closer attention to the anticipated effects of lower trade barriers. They are also facing a continuing series of strikes largely inspired by labor's fear of changes required in French industry to meet foreign competition.

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USSR-Egypt: The USSR has agreed to provide Egypt with an additional 400,000 tons of wheat with delivery to begin in May, according to an Egyptian official. Payment is to be made in hard currency, and probably over an 18-36 month period with interest at about six percent--terms comparable to those of Western commercial sales. These terms, considerably stiffer than those required for 250,000 tons Moscow provided under contract signed in January, point up the USSR's unwillingness to be saddled with the burden of Egypt's wheat requirements.

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Greece: Parliament, originally scheduled to convene today, will not meet until 14 April. The postponement could be intended to give National Radical Union (ERE) Premier Kanellopoulos more time to solicit support for a confidence vote. Kanellopoulos, however, may decide to dispense with the meeting, dissolve Parliament, and call for elections under an ERE government as he was authorized to do by King Constantine. Meanwhile, police and security forces remain on the alert against further demonstrations by the opposition.

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*Nicaragua: President Guerrero has reversed his decision not to attend the summit conference in Uruguay because of the sudden illness of former president Luis Somoza and left late yesterday for Punta del Este with a small delegation. President-elect Anastasio Somoza is remaining at home, however, because of his brother's critical condition.

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